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COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

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Public Encouraged to Participate in Virginia Energy Plan Public Listening Session At Virginia Military Institute in Lexington

RICHMOND – The Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy (DMME) will hold a public listening session to receive public comments on and recommendations for the Virginia Energy Plan on Wednesday, October 18, 2006, at the Virginia Military Institute's Jackson Memorial Hall in Lexington VA. The meeting is the third of four such public listening sessions being held across the Commonwealth to receive public comments on the development of a ten-year Virginia Energy Plan.

The Lexington listening session is being scheduled along with the Energy Virginia Conference at VMI and will start at 6:30 p.m. You do not have to be registered for the Energy Virginia Conference to come and speak at the public listening session. The DMME will use comments from the public as it drafts the Virginia Energy Plan. More information on the Energy Virginia Conference may be found at <http://www.energyvacon.org>.

The public listening session will be preceded by a meeting of the Virginia Energy Plan Advisory Group from 2 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the Turman Room of the Preston Library at VMI. The Advisory Group is composed of key leaders with an interest in Virginia energy matters who have been asked to provide input to the plan. Constituent groups represented by these leaders include consumers, local government and military, general business, environmental advocacy, electric and natural gas utilities, petroleum industry, energy extraction industry, and renewable and other energy interests.

The Virginia Energy Plan was established in Senate Bill 262, signed by Governor Timothy M. Kaine in May, to proactively assess and plan for Virginia's energy future. "The development of the Virginia Energy Plan is a key step in establishing how we will develop and conserve our energy resources in a manner that helps protect our environment while promoting continued economic development and vitality in the Commonwealth" Governor Kaine said "I strongly encourage public

development and vitality in the Commonwealth Governor Kaine said. I strongly encourage public involvement in the development of the plan as we continue to define our long-term energy policy.”

Secretary of Commerce and Trade Patrick O. Gottschalk will lead the Advisory Group work session, which will examine issues related to energy resources. “The meetings of the Virginia Energy Plan Advisory Council and subsequent public listening sessions are providing an opportunity for invaluable private and public sector input to the plan,” said Secretary Gottschalk. “We are interested in public input on Virginia’s energy resources and consumption, energy conservation and efficiency, our energy infrastructure, environmental impacts associated with energy production and consumption, and current and future energy research and development.”

This will be the third of four Advisory Group meetings and public listening sessions on the Virginia Energy Plan. The fourth session will be held on:

- **November 2, 2006, in the Tidewater Room at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg.** The Williamsburg public listening session is scheduled to start at 6 p.m.

The Virginia Energy Plan Web site, www.dmme.virginia.gov/VaEnergyPlan, will be updated with the latest information on plan development, meeting schedules, meeting minutes and links to other energy information. The public also may comment on the Virginia Energy Plan through the Web site. Citizens who are unable to attend the public listening sessions are encouraged to provide comments to DMME through the Virginia Energy Plan Web site.

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